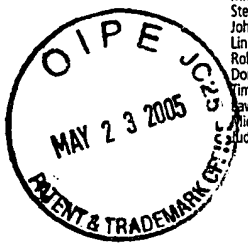
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May 23, 2005

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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
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Mail Stop Amendment

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 10/204,487; § 371 Date: January 3, 2003
(U.S. Nat'l Phase of PCT/JP01/01399; Int'l Filing Date: February 26, 2001)
For: **Parkin Protein as Ubiquitin Ligase**
Inventors: Mizuno *et al.*
Our Ref: 0652.2550000/EKS/MEK

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Reply to Restriction Requirement; and

2. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Eric K. Steffe
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 36,688

EKS/MEK/lam
Enclosures

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Mizuno *et al.* Appl. No.: 10/204,487 (U.S. Nat'l Phase of PCT/JP01/01399; Int'l Filing Date: February 26, 2001) § 371 Date: January 3, 2003 For: **Parkin Protein as Ubiquitin Ligase**	Confirmation No.: 2862 Art Unit: 1652 Examiner: Walicka, Malgorzata A. Atty. Docket: 0652.2550000/EKS/MEK

Reply to Restriction Requirement

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated April 21, 2005, requesting an election of one invention to prosecute in the above-referenced patent application, Applicant hereby provisionally elects to prosecute the invention of Group 1, represented by claims 14-19. This election is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or inventions disclosed.

This election is made with traverse. Applicants respectfully assert that there is unity of invention between Groups I-IV. The specification states that "no evidence showing that Parkin concerns the ubiquitin pathway was reported until now." Specification at p. 3, ll. 7-8. The current invention is directed to finding "a new function of Parkin by examining whether Parkin concerns the ubiquitin pathway. . . and then to provide a novel method of diagnosing juvenile Parkonsonism on the basis of this finding." Specification at p. 3, ll. 11-13. As part of this method of treating juvenile Parkinsonism this invention further provides means to screen for medicines depending on the finding about the ubiquitin linking functionality of Parkin. Accordingly,

Applicants respectfully traverse Examiner's restriction requirement because all groups are linked by at least the inventive step of finding "that Parkin concerns the transfer reaction of ubiquitin into the target protein in the ubiquitin pathway." Specification at p. 3, ll. 18-20. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, and consideration and allowance of all pending claims, are respectfully requested.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required because this reply was filed on May 23, 2005 [May 21 was a Saturday] within one month from the issuance of this restriction requirement. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Eric K. Steffe
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 36,688

Date: May 23, 2005

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